

Meeting called to order in the BOS Meeting Room at the Milford Town Hall at 7:00

**Present:**

Members: Audrey Frazier, Chair; Kim Rimalover, V. Chair; Andy Hughes, Becky Lorette, Hub Seward

Alternate members: Chris Costantino. Excused – Janet Urquhart

Guests: Eric Radloff, Bay State Forestry; Mike Powers, Bay State Forestry; Mile Slip TF Trail Managers Steve Erdody and Mike Sebas; Brox Environmental Citizens Coalition with Suzanne Fournier and Jerry Guthrie

**Minutes:** October and November minutes were accepted on a motion by Becky, seconded by Andy H.

**Discussion Items**

1. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Hike
  - a. There is no hike in December
  - b. Anne Burke made a donation, which was accepted on a motion by Becky, seconded by Kim. The donation will be put into the Rail Trail Fund. Audrey sent a thank-you note.
  - c. January Hike in Tucker Brook – entrance to be determined
2. Audrey updated the members concerning the Episcopal Church/Rotch Property
  - a. Audrey, Becky and Chris met with the BOS, who approved the acceptance of the property
  - b. Rolf Goodwin, atty for the Episcopal Church has been notified
  - c. Mike Powers, who wrote the management plan for the Rotch Wild Life Preserve Town Forest will update the plan to include the addition of the Episcopal Church piece. He will work out some sort of pricing in conjunction with Eric Radloff's work on Mile Slip Town Forest
3. Becky and Chris started the monitoring visit at the Patch Hill subdivision – too large for one visit.
  - a. Encroachments were noted along lots 9-1-27 (tree house) and 9-1-29 (fire pit)
  - b. Chris will draft a letter notifying the abutters that the encroachments need to be removed. Rita and Fred have mailed a letter of notification in the past.
4. Mile Slip Management Plan – Eric Radloff and Mike Powers, Bay State Forestry
  - a. Audrey stated she would like to see early successional openings maintained throughout the property. Eric said that his goal would be to develop a plan that would promote multiple age classes through the forest. He would find areas in the forest that would be kept open with periodic mowing to maintain a constant early successional habitat within the bounds of the town forest
  - b. Eric suggested that the Commission publicize the decision to create a management plan in order to solicit input from the public. The abutters should also be notified and an informational sheet put in the Mile Slip trailhead kiosk.
  - c. Eric will look for locations and at the forest as a whole for opportunities for positive recreation such as Project Learning Tree, which would discourage continued negative recreation.
  - d. Eric will start by identifying the boundaries with flagging. Then he will lay out a grid which will involve around 400 inventory points.
  - e. He will create a draft which the commission will review. If any public or the Commission has comments, they should be filtered through Chris to Eric. Eric will incorporate them into the management plan where applicable.
  - f. Eric and Mike will assist with the process to have Mile Slip designated as a NH Tree Farm
  - g. Steve Erdody will lead the commission on a couple of site visits so that the members will be more knowledgeable about Mile Slip.
5. Mitchell Brook Auction – Audrey and Chris attended the auction of Map 45 Lot 18. The commission was represented by Ian McSweeney of the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, who was willing to purchase and hold the property for the commission. Bidding started out of our range, so we watched the bidding until a price was reached of about \$70,000 for the 3 parcels. Ian talked to the winning bidder to inform him that the commission would be interested in working with him for an easement.
6. Draft easement for the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation, which purchased an easement on the Pratt Property. Chris needs to follow up with Ian McSweeney to make sure all is in order.
7. Tucker Brook Town Forest - Audrey and Chris walked the trail with Dan Reed where there will be the biggest impact from the logging. Audrey identified the buffer flagging that Mike Sebas, trail manager, had placed. Dan will be very cautious about marking in this area – each tree will be particularly evaluated for long term forest health vs. trail impact. The trail reroute to avoid some of the logging is about complete

with white flagging in place. Dan was also shown the Vulture nesting rocks and the dog burl with the understanding that these two places would be left untouched. Whole tree harvesting method will be used which will result in the least impact to trails and leave the least amount of slash. Mike Sebas will try to get out to the forest this weekend to see what has been marked

8. Brox Environmental Citizens Appointment
  - a. Jerry Guthrie, landscape architect, outlined his conceptual plan which he had submitted to the town in 2000. He described his thoughts of creating a tech center for students and other ideas that he would love to see at Brox including the incorporation of the existing trails.
  - b. MCAA has asked to start developing some fields. The wetlands will need to be identified to help direct the placement of the fields. The town will get a quote for the delineation and then proceed as appropriate. MCAA likes the idea of trails complementing their organized sports program and are determined to keep environmental impacts non-existent to minimal.
  - c. Audrey reiterated that the Commission will be included in any plans that are developed at Brox as well as the other departments to create an integrated property of residential, commercial, industrial and community needs with minimum impact to the environment.
  - d. Concerns expressed by the guests
    - i. Trash dumping – referred the guest to the BOS
    - ii. Gun shooting – referred the guest to the BOS
    - iii. House lots at the end of Brookview Drive – referred the guest to Planning
    - iv. Berms being impacted. Audrey outlined the actions taken by the commission after being notified by S Fournier that berms in the pit were being impacted. Audrey has made two trips out to the site, had the wetlands flagged and spoken to DPW to keep machinery away from the berms as much as possible. They can drive in the buffer, but not remove or drop material
    - v. CIP Plan to direct funds to start installing infrastructure at Brox – referred the guest to Planning
  - e. Jerry Guthrie presented an informational sheet about buffalo grass with the suggestion that it be planted for the field grass – referred him to MCAA
9. ADA policy – Chris gave a brief summary of the ROST meeting which hosted Janet Zeller, the Accessibility Director for the USFS. There is a dvd of the presentation. The commission will discuss this at the January meeting after the members have had a chance to read the ADA policy crafted by SPNHF and review Janet's comments
10. Facebook – the Commission will use the town's Social Media Policy for guidance about unsolicited postings to the Commission facebook page
11. Budget Committee – Audrey will present to the Budget Committee on December 19 at 6:45
12. Warrant Article – warrant article submitted requesting \$20,000 for the land fund.
13. Kaley Park
  - a. AndyH and Chris walked Kaley Park to scope out the location and distance of a fitness trail.
  - b. Andy plotted the proposed ½ mile trail on a google map identifying the suggested locations for some benches and fitness stations.
  - c. Map was submitted to Recreation and was happily received
14. Bog Bridge construction and installation on the Souhegan River Trail – Hub and Andy will comment on this once we have a detailed plan from Jon Thunberg
15. State of the Trails – Audrey and Chris wrote a State of the Trails Report at the request of Tim Finan, Selectman. Chris will send a copy to each member and post in Dropbox
16. Envirothon
  - a. Competition designed around environmental studies
  - b. Chris has researched the possibility of the Commission supporting a Milford High Team
  - c. Chris will contact the science department to determine what their level of participation is
17. Interdepartmental Reviews – no comments to pass along to the Planning Board

Meeting adjourned at 9:45